

37. (Previously Presented) A coating composition for applying to a substrate comprising:

a resinous binder having dispersed therein colorant pigments and reflective pigments, wherein said colorant pigments absorb visible light at a first wavelength band and produce fluorescent light at a second wavelength band when exposed to visible light, said coating composition exhibiting a first appearance on face dominated by absorbance of light by said colorant pigments and a second appearance on flop dominated by fluorescence of the colorant pigments, wherein the concentration of said colorant pigments in the coating composition is about 0.001 wt.% to about 50 wt.%, and wherein the colorant pigments have a particle size of less than about 150nm.

REMARKS

Claims 15-37 are currently pending. Claims 15, 18, 28, 30, 31, 34 and 35 are amended. Claims 15, 31 and 35 are amended to clarify the particle size of the colorant pigments, which is selected so that the pigment particles will not scatter light effectively. No new matter is added by this amendment; this language is found in the specification at page 5, paragraph [0019]. Claims 18 and 28 are amended to correct a spelling error, and Claims 25, 30 and 34 are amended to delete an unnecessary word. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments to permit the present application to proceed to allowance.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 15-19, 21-31 and 33-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly being not enabled. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as it may pertain to the amended claims.

It is asserted in the Office Action that the rejected claims do not reasonably provide enablement for use of particle sizes above 150 nm. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion.

As amended, Claims 15, 31 and 35 are directed to compositions in which the size of the colorant pigment particle (when the colorant comprises colorant pigments) is selected so that the pigment particle does not scatter light effectively. One skilled in the art can easily determine if a particular pigment size meets this requirement; there is more than adequate guidance in the specification for determination of which particle sizes above 150 nm will work. As pointed out in the Office Action and explained in the specification, if the pigment particle size is too large it will mask the fluorescence of the coating and diminish the change perceived in color when the coated object is viewed from differing viewing angles. This language provides objective criteria by which a composition having a pigment particle size over 150 nm can be judged as suitable and within the bounds of the present claims.

A firm limit to particle size is not supported by the teachings of the specification as a whole. The language describing desirable particle sizes for colorant pigments reads, "A suitable particle size is less than 150 nm . . ." (specification at page 6, paragraph [0020] emphasis added). This language is not limiting, and indicates a preference, not a requirement. At no point in the application is there any indication that particle sizes above 150 will not work, or that the upper limit is critical. All other discussion of particle size in the application is in general terms, indicating Applicants' intent not to be bound by the particle size described above. For example, in paragraph [0020], page 6, preparation of the particles is described: "The pigment particles are milled to nanoparticulate sizes" Examples 1-5, pages 10-11, also state that the Pigment Yellows used in these examples were milled to "nanoparticulate" sizes.

The MPEP would appear to support Applicants' position. According to the MPEP at 2164.08(c),

In determining whether an unclaimed feature is critical, the entire disclosure must be considered. Features which are merely preferred are not to be considered critical. *In re Goffe*, 542 F.2d 564, 567, 191 USPQ 429, 431 (CCPA 1976). An enablement rejection based on the grounds that a disclosed critical limitation is missing from a claim

should be made only when the language of the specification makes it clear that the limitation is critical for the invention to function as intended. Broad language in the disclosure, including the abstract, omitting an allegedly critical feature, tends to rebut the argument of criticality.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action fails to set forth a *prima facie* case of lack of enablement. As explained by the CCPA in *In re Marzocchi and Richard C. Horton*, 439 F.2d 220 (1971), the recitation of a generic term must be taken as an assertion that all compounds falling within the generic term are operative, and the Patent Office must explain why it doubts the truth or accuracy of any statement in the disclosure and back up its assertions with acceptable evidence or reasoning. *Id. at 1072-1073*. Applying this case to the facts at hand, the generic term being “the particle size of the colorant pigment being selected so that the pigment particles will not scatter light effectively”, the Office Action fails to set forth adequate reasons for asserting that any particular particle sizes falling within this category above 150 nm will not work, or that one skilled in the art would be unable to determine a suitable particle size without undue experimentation, based on the guidance provided in the application.

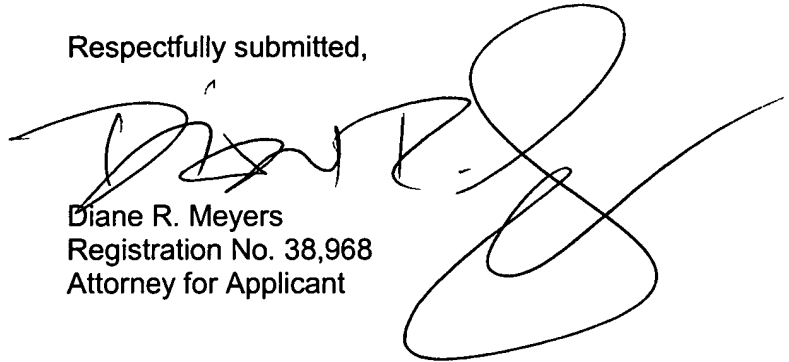
The Office Action also appears to take issue with Applicants' use of the word "when", in the phrase "wherein when the colorant comprises colorant pigments". As explained throughout the specification and recited in Claim 17, a colorant according to the invention can comprise a dye and/or a pigment. If the colorant comprises only a dye, the colorant pigment size would be irrelevant. Because "when" qualifies the situation of "when" the colorant comprises colorant pigments, Applicants respectfully submit that use of the language “when the colorant comprises colorant pigments” is proper. Any rejection of these claims based on the use of this language should be withdrawn.

Claims 15-27 and 31-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. It is asserted that the claim language “colorant pigments do not induce significant diffuse reflectance” lacks support in the

specification. While Applicants do not concede there is a lack of support, this language has been removed and replaced with the exact text found in the specification at page 5, paragraph [0019]: "the size of the colorant pigment particles is selected so that the pigment particles will not scatter light effectively". Accordingly, Claims 15-27 and 31-35 meet the written description requirement under §112 of the statute.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims, Claims 15-37, are fully enabled, in compliance with the written description requirement, and in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Diane R. Meyers, is positioned to the right of the typed name and registration information.

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